Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2014

Dear Colleague:

For the first time since 1997, a bicameral, bipartisan solution to the challenges posed by Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) has been presented to Congress. Members and staff of the relevant House and Senate committees are to be commended for their work on H.R. 4015 / S. 2000, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act. The House GOP Doctors Caucus, upon reviewing this framework, has agreed to the policies contained within this compromise proposal.

We are firmly committed to a permanent repeal of the SGR this year. We cannot accomplish this goal, however, without substantive bipartisan, bicameral agreement on policies to offset the cost of H.R. 4015. Any such reforms must not only receive majority support in both chambers, but also be agreed to by the White House.

Negotiations of this importance and magnitude require both sides to come to the table. By advancing H.R. 4015 this week—offset by a delay in the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate—the House will clearly demonstrate its support for a long overdue solution for Medicare physician payment, while also moving the legislative process forward. While a delay of the individual mandate has gained bipartisan support as recently as last week, we understand this policy is opposed by the president.

By passing this bill, members of the House are creating an opportunity for our Senate colleagues to act as they see fit, while demonstrating similar support for the payment reforms.

We would encourage you to join us in support of H.R. 4015, and of advancing the bill to the Senate with the goal of spurring a bipartisan, bicameral dialogue that will ultimately bring this desperately needed legislation to the president's desk.

Sincerely,

Phil Gingrey, M.D.

Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Member of Congress

Phil Roe, M.D.

Member of Congress

Tom Price, M.D.

Member of Congress

Dan Benishek, M.D. Member of Congress

Diane Black, R.N. Member of Congress

Charles Boustany, M.D. Member of Congress

Larry Bucston, M.D. Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy, M.D. Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais, M.D. Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers, R.N. Member of Congress John Fleming, M.D. Member of Congress

Paul Gosar, D.D.S. Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D. Member of Congress

Joe Heck, D.O.

Member of Congress

Tim Murphy, Ph.D. Member of Congress

Mike Simpson, D.D.S. Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M. Member of Congress